

### ALEXANDRIA, VA.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1873

THE SEASON. - We tender to our readers. one and all, the compliments of the season, and wish them all health and happiness.

A colored delegation, composed of George T. Downing, Frederick Douglass, N. W. Cuney, F. G. Barbadoes, D. A. Stryker and Wm. J. Wilson, had an interview yesterday by appointment with Representative A. H. Stephens, of Georgia, who received the delegation in the most friendly manner. The delegation report that in the course of the conversation Mr. Stephens freely admitted that colored men as citizens were entitled to full protection in their civil rights without any invidious proscription, but that it was the duty of the respective States, and not that of the Federal Government, to act in order to secure them. He Divinity that was in Ilim; was traduced, and stated that he was preparing a speech, to be tempted, and persecuted, and suffered death delivered in the House of Representatives, on the Civil Rights bill, and in this his views were fully expressed.

It is said at the Navy Department that the Virginius will be taken to New York instead of Norfolk, as at first contemplated, and it is the intention of the Government to libel her at | Valley of the Shadow of Death. But, openly, once in the United States District Court for violation of the United States law relating to the registering and recording of vessels. Un old Pagan creeds. The refined Greeks, and less the owners of the Virginius can show that their proceedings were regular and legal the vessel will be condemned and sold at public auction, and neither her owners nor the Spanisn authorities will have any further claim upon her. As soon as the State Department can produce the necessary evidence our Government will press its demand against Spain for indemnity in behalf of the families of the executed persons. No further diplomatic compli cations are apprehended.

The Postmaster General has made arrangements for a fourth regular mail from New York to Europe each week --- the new or additional mail-day being Tuesday. Mr. Creswell has determined not to make new contracts after the expiration, on the 31st instant, of those now in existence, but he will give the ocean mails to vessels which make the quickest trips across the Atlantic. The speed of steamers is to be ing up traditions by the roots, subduing the ascertained from their logs each month. Mails rudest hearts to penitence and better lives, and will be given to steamers of the new American line from Philadelphia as often as vessels on and a nobler faith. that line can sail.

In connection with the question raised in the Senate Military Committee concerning the confirmation of Col. Crook to the rank of Brigadier General, it is held by those opposing the confirmation on the theory that there is no vacancv. that the failure of Paymaster General Al vord to be confirmed as Brigadier General is proof that the law of 1870 should be construed strictly. It is, however, stated by Gen. Coburn, Chairman of the House Military Committee, that such was not the construction of law when Alvord's case was considered.

It is announced that the price of coal next year has already been determined on, and that the market will open ten cents a ton lower than it opened last Spring. This deduction is not considerable, and will not affect the retail trade. Meantime, the companies are negotiating with and needy, which is enjoined, not only by the their laborers and miners as to the rate of faith we profess, but also by our natural inwages to be given next year, and are proposing stincts and sympathies, and which, whilst it a general reduction of ten per cent. It remains to be seen whether the combination which controlled prices so completely this year will be able to do so with equal success another year.

The Baltimore American says : "General Sickles' resignation as Minister to Spain occasions no regret. The New York Times says that he did his best to involve his country in a war with Spain, and that the recent negotiations were carried on without reference to him in any way-"his own bad judgment and worse temper having rendered it impossible for the Spanish Minister to hold any intercourse with him at a very early day."

The President has it is said, declared his determination not to withdraw the nomination of Attorney General Williams as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

The President returned to Washington yesterday on the Western train. He was accompanied by his son, Col. Fred. Grant, and by Gen. Babcock.

Dr. Bodisco Williams died yesterday at his mother's residence in Georgetown, D. C., of

There is a bitter fight going on between the Baltimore and Ohio and the Pennsylvania rail- the invited guests, and toasts to the United

A Washington Stock Exchange was opened at noon yesterday.

that city yesterday.

SAD DEATH. - Quite a number of young ladies from Augusta and Rockingham counties of the 17th inst., to spend the holidays with of this county, who met the stage at Mrs. Parher anguish at finding her delirious with a rag- curative agency shall be the "movement cure, little party given the girls, perhaps by their ground of mental incompetency. teachers. After the most careful attention of physicians and anxious friends, death ensued relatives and friends. - Staunton Spectator. I term, on the second ballot.

#### A Christmas Homily.

[From the Fredericksburg News.] No more appropriate and beautiful tribute to "the Day we Celebrate" could be rendered than the following, which we find laid aside from a valued exchange for use and reproduc tion on this, our Yule-tide of 1873. And so we give place this once to our eloquent contemporary, who says: In all Christian lands with the ringing of bells, and psalm, and pray er, and pageant, and ceremonial, the anniversary of the birth of our Saviour will be celebrated. In this, at least, all forms of Christian belief are in accord. The sublime simplicity of the grand old hymn:

When shepherds watched their flocks by night,

All seated on the ground, The Angels of the Lord came down,

And glory shone around, still touches all our hearts, and we are carried in imagination back, as on a beam of light through nearly nineteen dead centuries, to the Syrian plain, and the Star that shone so wondrously over Bethlehem, and the Christ Child

in his lowly manger. We see, as it were in a vision, the adoration of the Magi; we smell strange odors of Myrrh and Frankincense, and we hear as by an inner sense, Angelie voices in the sky, chanting their gracious words of praise | together and tossed them to some gentlemen and promise:

"Glory to God in the Highest. On earth Peace. Good will toward men!'

How these glad tidings passed, from lip to ip, we know-slowly at first, but sinking decoly into the hearts of the humble; filling them with the consciousness of a Spiritua Presence, and clothing them with new thoughts and nobler aspirations. How, in the fulness of time, our Lord made himself known to the peorle, and taught them, by parables and example, what it was meet they should learn and do; how He wrought miracles, by virtue of the upon the Cross--- who is there, among all the Christian peoples that have lived and died, who has not laid to heart, the sad and sweet, and solemn, yet comforting story?

For nearly nineteen hundred years the day of his Nativity has been kept. At first, it was celebrated only by little scattered bands of Christian converts, in secret, and in the very and joyously, and with stately rites and ceremontes, as the Centuries rolled on, and Christianity rose to reverence on the ruins of the the hardy Romans-the Intellect, and the Power of the ancient world-were dying out. The Oracles were dumb. Augurs and Soothsayers ceased their divinations, and the statues of the Marble Gods fell from their pedestals before the Christian Cross, and the Shepherd's

Earnest and enthusiastic missionaries went orth into all known lands, and into the isles

"Close girdled by the inviolate sea," and taught the new faith to ignorant Kings and to Chieftains, whose pastime was the chase and the engrossing business of whose lives was to circumvent and slaughter each other. Wonderfully persuasive must have been the eloquence of these holy and self-denying men-for there was no pride in the church of those days-to have wrought the changes they did, by means apparently so inadequate. Simple in their garb; abstemious in their mode of living; their only weapon the Cross they bore: their only argument the wonderful story it symbolized, they wandered from led off in a speech of great force, sound argument, country to country conquering prejudices, tearilluminating the blood-stained stones of heathen Altars with the fires of a newer, and a purer,

And so it came to pass, with each recurring year, that the anniversary of our Saviour's birth became, by general accord, a season of High Festival. The Church, as it grew in power and influence made the occasion memorable by the grandeur of its worship, and the splendor of its pageants. Castle and Hall; Grange and Cottage; Town and Village; Thorpe and Hamlet, vied with each other in hospitality and joyousness. And bells were rung, and Carols sung, and Baron and Serf, and Yeoman and Hind, were drawn closer together by the sweet influences of the day, and the charities that blessed and consecrated it.

We, too keep up the ancient and beautiful custom; but under different conditions of life and in a different spirit. Yet, even to usamid the jarring of creeds, and the loss of much of that childlike faith and simple unquestioning reverence that disappears with larger know ledge and the growth of skepticism and infidelity-the day brings its joys and its remembrances; its interchanges of gifts, and-let us hope-that free handed liberality to the poor gives a richer flavor to the food we share, and a rarer bouquet to the wine we dispense, is the best evidence of our thankfulness to Him who holds rich and poor alike in the hollow of his hand. And so-a merry Christmas to all; and "as Tiny Tim" observed, "God bless Us, Every

# FOREIGN NEWS.

The scarlet fever, in an unusually malignant form, prevails in some parts of England. There have been forty-lour deaths from this disease in Liverpool within a few days.

A special from Berlin to the London Times says that in consequence of alarming rumors in regard to the health of the Emperor William. ananxious crowd filled the square opposite the palace. The people were assurred from the balcony that the Emperor was compartively well, though confined to his room, but they refused so disperse. The Standard reports rumors were persistently circulated yesterday of the Emperor's death. They are undoubtedly false, but it is certain that His Majesty is very ill.

The Daily News reports that the hostile tone of recent pastorals issued by French bishops have caused the German Government to renew its complaints to France.

Chevalier Nigra, the Italian Minister, had an interview with President MacMahon yesterday and proposed the resumption of cordial relations between France and Italy.

The French Peace Society gave a banquet in honor of its secretary, M. Richard, who has just returned from a mission to Italy. A number of Americans and Englishmen were among States and Great Britain were given.

The proposed grant of money to the ex-Empress Eugenie is strongly opposed in France. The report of Bazaine's flight is unfounded It is now stated that the ex-marshal is to leave Dr. Wm. C. Mayo, of Richmond, died in Paris to-night for Sainte Marguerite, his place of imprisonment.

SETH ADAMS was an eccentric citizen of New ton, Massachusetts. He accumulated wealth to the amount of nearly two million dollars. have been in attendance on a large boarding and has bequeathed it, with insignificant exschool in Fauquier, near the Manassas Gap ceptions, all to charitable purposes. But the Railroad. They took the cars on the morning queerest thing in his will is the recognition of nervousness as a disease, and the founding of their friends. Of the number was Miss Mattie | the "Adams Nervine Asylum." To this the J., only daughter of Mrs. Mary Jane McCue, greater portion of his estate is given. The institution is for "the benefit of such indigent, kins', her sister, on that evening, to greet her debilitated, nervous people, citizens of Massadaughter and take her home. Who can imagine | chusetts," as may need its care. The principal ing fever and all the symptoms of pneumonia, hot and cold baths, pure air, gymnastics and induced, as it is now believed, by a change of genial associations. Of course there are rumors dress on the evening before, in attendance on a that the relatives will contest the will on the

Judge Hager, of San Francisco, anti railroad on the morning of the 19th inst. Mrs. McCue candidate, was yesterday, at Sacramento, electhas the earnest sympathy of a large circle of ed U. S. Senator from California, for the short NEWS OF THE DAY.

To show the very age and body of the Times. In the Circuit Court of Baltimore city, yesterday, Judge Pinkney decided that a bequest "to the Episcopal Bishop of Western Maryland, in trust to be used for the erection of a mission church in the city of Baltimore," was void on the ground of uncertainty. The late Rev. George Morrison, after making a number of bequests in his will, declares: "The balance I devise to be left to the Bishop of Western Maryland, in trust to be used for the erection of a mission church in the city of Baltimore. Bi-hop Whittingham sued the executor of Morrison to recover the bequest, and the court

says there cannot be a trust without cestui que trust, and if it cannot be ascertained who the cestui que trust is, it is the same as if there were none, and the bequest is void from uncer-A thrilling scene occurred at Mrs. Livermore's lecture at Springfirld, Vt., a few nights since. The lady had been dilating eloquently upon the bad effects of tight lacing, when a young woman in the gallery, with great difficulty and much perseverance, burst her corset

you can have this to play cat's-cradle with.' Advices from Tucson, Arizona, state that a terrible tragedy occurred on the 10th of December at Lincoln, New Mexico. Constable Martin, with a posse, attempted to arrest David Warner, M. H. Earl and J. S. Glynn, when Warner killed Martin. The sheriff's posse then tribution of the wood was concerned he was killed Warner, and the other two named were found dead, riddled with bullets.

strings, and drawing them forth, knotted them

near by, with the observation: "Here, boys,

Gen. A. B. Dyer, the commandant of the Washington arsenal, is lying dangerously ill at his residence, and no hopes are entertained of his recovery.

#### Commencement Exercises.

(Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette. BLACKSBURG, VA., Dec. 19, 1873. -The intermediate celebration of the "Sophosonian" Literary Society of the Agricultural and Mechanical College took place in the M.E. Church, in this place, last night. The Christiansburg brass band was in attendance, and their fine music added very much to the occasion. The congregation was large and enthusiastic.

The services were opened with prayer by Rev. W. F. Wilhelm, of the Presbyterian Church, after which Mr. R. G. Gillum, of Augusta, delivered an oration on the "Evils of Intemperance." Mr. Gillum is a graceful speaker, and he acquitted himself in a manner wurthy of an older head. His success in life is assured.

Mr. R. B. Minor, of Hanover, followed in an address on the "Advantages of Debating His paper was thoroughly pre-Societies. pared, and there is no doubt of the analytical

cast of his mind. The delivery of these orations made a fine impression on the minds of all who were present, but the most interesting and exciting part of the evening's entertainment consisted in the discussion of the following question: "Which exerts the greater influence over man, the love of woman or money?" Affirmative, J. B. Bocock and Robert Snavely, the former of Lynch-burg, and the latter of Wythe. The negative was represented by Wm. B. Tinsley, of Appomattox, and Richard Dear, of Fairfax. Mr. Bocock and a large amount of genuine humor. Mr. Tinsley followed on the negative in an address of great power, much wit, and conclusive logic. Tinsley will do. Mr. Snavely came to the rescue of the affirmative in a manner which showed that he had studied the subject carefully, and fine one. Mr. Dear closed the discussion in a way that led all present to conclude that he possessed a mind of more than ordinary powers. first distrain. He did nobly. This discussion made a profound Society, the faculty, and the young men them-

The farewell words of Messrs. Tinsley and Dear, (as they do not intend to return) thrilled every heart, and all united in the desire that a kind Providence would ever guide and keep

Mr. C. W. Bocock, of Lynchburg, acted as President of the Society, and, from his well known ability, it is unnecessary to say that he performed his duties well.

When we consider the short time this College has been in existence, and the limited means at her command, we do not go beyond the truth when we say that the day is not far in the future, when she will compare favorably with the best in the land. May it succeed, is the sincere wish of

OYSTER WAR. - All is not "quiet on the Potomae," if we may believe the Philadelphia Ledger, which reports two naval encounters, each resulting, happily, in the loss of nothing but success. The "Maryland Oyster Police sloop Bessie Woolford" recently sighted the schooner Kate Cassidy, engaged in the crime of dredging for oysters in St. Mary's river. Pursuit, resulting in an exciting chase of eight miles, enabled the police to overtake the guilty vessel, and she was boarded by the Maryland authorities. The Police Captain reports that her name was concealed and her number hidden, but this seems to have been all the concealment attempted, for he goes on to say that 'the Captain and crew of ten, presenting guns, knives and opprobrious epithets," the police were "compelled to quit her." This disaster to the Maryland marine is, however, counterbalanced by a somewhat similar defeat for Virginia. The "Virginia Oyster Police steamer Tredegar," has been for some time warning the Maryland dredgers from carrying on their piratical operations in Pocomoke Sound. The filibuster schooner Cuba, from Crisfield, nevertheless, carried a hostile expedition there last week, when the Virginian man-of-war hove in sight. The chase was exciting, exhibiting some extraordinary feats of pavigation, but the schooner out-manœuvred and out-sailed the steamer. The Virginian commander theo resorted to the extreme measures necessary in such an emergency, and calling "all hands." he fired the steamer's gun in such a manner that it would endanger no one excepting his own ship's company, and then desisted from the chase. Our readers, when enjoying their bivalves, possibly may not be aware of the warfare that is waging on their account along the shores of the Chesapeake. - Balt. Am.

BARNUM is on his way over the Atlantic with the great Indian box trick, and thus writes to a friend in New York: "My Dear Morris: In reply to your letter, asking my opinion of Dr. Lynn's entertainment, I unhesitatingly declare that I consider it marvelous and interesting in the highest degree. Some of his illusions are positively astounding and incomprehensible. The secret of the Iudian box trick for which I have paid Dr. Lynn £500, will, in my estimation, create a great sensation in America. Yours, truly, P. T. BARNUM."

# MARRIED.

December 23d, 1873, in Washington, D. C., by Rev Stephen Hall, ROBERT A. TAYLOR, of Fairfax county, Va., and Miss MARY H. TAYLOR, of Culpeper county.

DIED.

In this place, on Monday evening, December 224, MARY ESTELLE, youngest child of Frederick and Mary E. Baker, aged two years

2000 LBS BUCKWHEAT FLOUR for sale by THOMAS PERRY, 17 King street.

and one month.

CITY COUNCIL. A regular meeting of the City Council was held last night.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN. It was not until 7:55 that the Board was called to order by the President, there then being present but a bare quorum, viz: Messrs. Jauney, Latham, French Johnson and Moore.

After the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and the call of committees for reports. A bill for repairs to the Alms House amounting to \$365 57, including purchase of stoves &c , was presented by Mr. Moore and ordered to be paid. Mr. M. said that it had been stated that these repairs would cost upwards of \$1,200, but that the Committee on Public Property had had all that was necessary done for the amount specified?

Dr. Johnson having introduced a resolution providing that the wood purchased by the Corporation for the poor should be distributed by the Overseers of the Poor instead of by the

Mr. Latham said he should oppose the pas sage of the resolution upon principle. He had full confidence in the Overseers of the Poor, but was not in favor of taking from the Mayor the distribution of the wood. His opportunities were so much greater than those of the Overseers for knowing to whom the distribution should be made, and he should, or ought to have constant supervision in all parts of the city, and consequently a better knowledge of the relative population of the Wards, and the proportion of poor in each. He knew there had been complaints of partiality against the present incumbent, and if necessary, he should have his acts investigated, but as far as the disperfectly witling that the Mayor should have the distribution, especially with our present population.

Dr. Johnson said that if the Mayor rightly understood his position, he would refer the matter to the Overseers, who, in his opinion, were more nearly connected with the people of the Wards. So unequal had been the distribution heretofore that the Overseers had complained and requested that the wood should be subject to their orders. He had presented the resolution at the request of Mr. Moore, and was decidedly in favor of it.

Mr. Moore thought the Overseers the prop er ones to distribute the wood, as the May or had not the time and could not be as well acquainted with the wants of the poor in the

different Wards.

Mr. Latham said he knew more about the matter than any one else. While Mayor he had always acted in harmony with the Overseers of the Poor, and had frequently refused orders from them, always, however, with their approval. If the Mayor did his duty he would know to whom the wood was given, and in what quantities. Himself had been charged, while in office, of injustice, but he had always triumphantly refuted the charges, as he had done all others ever brought against him. While Mayor he had in the matter of wood for the poor, in four years, saved two year's salary, and in 1866-'7 he had obtained from the government one hundred cords of wood, without cost ing the city one cent, something that, without egotism, he did not believe anyone else could have done.

The question being taken upon the adoption of the resolution it was lost for want of the requisite majority, Mr. Latham voting no.

A resolution from the Common Council sanctioning the guttering of a portion of Columbus street near Wolfe, was opposed by Dr. Johnson on the ground that the whole street would have to be graded soon, and that it would therefore be a useless expenditure, and upon motion of Mr. Latham the action of the Common Council was non-concurred in, and the resolution referred to the Committee on Streets. A resolution passed by the Common Council

in reference to delinquent property, instructing with a determination to win. His effort was a the Collectors to sell for taxes due, was opposed by Dr. Johnson upon the ground of extraordinary hard times, and that the Collectors should Dr. French favored the resolution because

impression and reflected great credit on the he thought that if all were forced to pay the city would realize eighty or one hundred thousand dollars, and the taxes could be reduced at least twenty per et., and the city would get along, financially, much better.

Mr. Latham favored the resolution because it was but carrying out a law, and while it would probably fall heavily upon himself, yet, as it was law, and had been placed in the new charter contrary to his wishes, he was for carrying

Dr. Johnson again expressed his opposition on account of the times, and would wait until Spring and the revival of business before executing the law in this respect. He was for giving notice to delinquents, but at the same time granting them some indulgence, in consequence of the financial crisis.

The question on concurring in the action of the Common Council, in passing the resolution. was then taken and it was lost for want of the requisite majority - Dr. Johnson voting no.

Mr. Moore said he did not see the use of considering any further business as it seemed nothing could pass, but,

A resolution from the Common Council in structing the delegates in the Legislature from this city and county to vote for a bill requiring the payment of the capitation tax as a prerequisite to voting in the municipal elections, was read, and the vote being taken upon its passage it was defeated - Mr. Latham voting no.

Bills against Dr. Johnson for a well on north Pitt street, referred by the Common Council,

Mr. Latham asked if the work had been or

dered by Council.

Dr. Johnson explained that the people in the neighborhood had been deprived of a Spring by its being filled up, and had called his attention to their want of water; that he had called the attention of the Committee on Streets to the matter, but they had paid no attention to it, when he had had the work done himself and paid for it, with the exception of \$8 donated by some of the residents in the vicinity. It was necessary that the people there should have water; that he had had the work done cheap, and it now only remained to be seen whether he was to be reimbursed for his outlay.

The bills were referred. Dr. Johnson presented a petition of the barbers asking the passage of a law requiring the closing of barber shops on Sundays, which, on motion of Mr. Latham, was referred to the Committee on General Laws, with instructions to report a bill in accordance with the prayer of the petitioners; and then, at 8:55, the Board

adjourned. COMMON COUNCIL.

There was a very sparce attendance outside of the bar, and but ten members within the bar at the opening of the Common Council last

In introducing a resolution in favor of a change in the charter so as to require the payment of the city captation tax before voting at city elections, Mr. McKenzie said that the bills of the collectors of taxes had been before the committee, and there were many unpaid head tax bills (50 cts. each) and the committee thought that some method should be adopted to secure the payment of such taxes. The children of persons not paying the State taxes were not allewed to attend the public schools. The city paid \$660 per month for these schools, a heavy tax, and some method should be

adopted to enforce its payment. The resolution was unanimously agreed to. Some bills for digging a well on north Patt of Bult. Sun. street, having been presented,

Mr. Rock, who handed them to the chair, said that Mr. Lucas had handed them to him. Bills for the quarter ending December 15th, The bills were contracted in digging a well to The bills were contracted in digging a well to supply water to the people of upper Pift street whose sources of water supply had been filled up.

Mr. McKenzie moved to refer to the Com-

Mr. McKenzie moved to refer to the Com- dec 22-1w

mittee on Claims. Some one must examine

Mr. Rishiell-Would it not be well to have it done by contract. [Laughter.]

Mr. Eichberg asked whether the work had been authorized by Council. The President-There is no bill here against

the Council, the bills are against Dr. John-

-Mr. Fowle-I move to return the bills to Mr. Rock. Mr. Rock said that the bills had been contracted by Dr. Johnson. He says when he dug that well the corporation had no money to spare

and he advanced the money. Mr. Evans said that well was the water which the people in that neighborhood had used for a great many years, but it would have been covered up in grading Pitt street but Dr. Johnson to save the water for the people, had a wall made aroud the spring, so that the people could still go down and get the water.

Superintendent of Police, Clifford (by re quest) said that he had nothing to do with it in the world. The well was above the spring, but the spring was covered in before the well was sunk.

Mr. Hughes said that when the Committee on Streets had refused to pay for this well, Dr. Johnson, who had ordered it, said he would pay for it out of his own pocket, but afterwards he understood made a collection in the neighborhood. How much money he got the speaker did not know. Now he comes here asking that Council pay bills that he contracted and promised to pay. This kind of thing would not do. If Dr. J. took upon himself to order work done he ought to take it upon himself to pay for it. He (Dr. J.) had not long since contracted with a man for dirt for the city's use at 10 ets. per load, when, if he had let the matter alone, the city would have got the earth for nothing. He then brings in the bill before his own committee and reduced the price to 6 cts. This gentleman who was so fond of commenting upon others, allowed no one do anything but himself. "I suppose h thinks he is little King of Siam, or something else." Yet he has more rights than any other member of Council. He would like to know where the supplies to the small-pox hospital came from - at whose store the purchases were made. It was time this thing had come to a

Mr. Evans said that the well was but eight or ten teet deep. The well was dug to strike the supply water of the old spring then covered up, but for it the people there would have had no water.

head. He moved to refer the bills to Dr. John-

Mr. Fowle said the bills were not properly before the Council. They were Dr. Johnson' bills, and there was no petition asking pay ment. There should be such a petition.

Mr. McKenzie agreed that the mode sug gested by Mr. Fowle would be the best. He did not want to be discourteous, as Dr. John son was never discourteous. He thought the quietest way was to refer the bills. Let us have peace.

Mr. Hughes was aware of the courtesy of Dr. Johnson. He had recently declared in the Aldermen that he (Dr. J.) had had him (Mr. 11.) appointed on the Committee on Streets. It so, he never knew it. He would ask the President if it were so.

The President said he used his own judgment in the selection of committees, and Mr. Hughes was appointed at the solicitation or by the influence of nobody whatever.

Mr. Hughes-Dr. Johnson says some peo ple lie, but other people come near the truth and don't hit it exactly.

The bills were referred to the Committee on The other business occasioned no debate,

and the Council adjourned before 9 o'clock.

### Washington News.

The Circuit Court yesterday discharged its jury until Monday next, and there will be no courts open until Monday next. The executive departments will all be closed Christmas and New Year's Day, and with the exception of a few bureaus, will give all their employees half a day holiday all the other days until January. Twenty-one marriage licenses were issued

The Corcoran Art Gallery will not be opened to the public for one month yet, as Mr. Me-Leod, the curator, has found it necessary to delay the grand opening until that time.

Considerable complaint is expressed by the workmen under the street contractors, be cause they have not been paid for some time All of the contractors promised that they would pay their laborers off before Christmas, but so far the maj rity have been unable to do so, though the various District bonds and scrip which is issued to contractors is now selling at good rates. In several cases collisions have occurred. About four o'clock yesterday a large number of colored and white workmen assembled about a contractor's office on Fifteenth street, opposite the Treasury Department, and demanded their pay in rather violent language, but Mr. Walsh put them off by promising to pay them in full this evening, and thus prevented any trouble.

Prof. J. R. H. Wilcox is making arrangements for the holding of two womens' rights conventions in this city during the winter. The first, which will be held in January, will be in the interest of the Boston party. Mrs. Liver-more will preside. The New York party will about a month later, hold a convention.

The case of J. A. Brotherton vs. the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, was re-sumed and concluded yesterday. The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff, giving him \$500 damages against the railroad company. He claimed \$10,000.

The captain of a Maryland schooner, the Rock of Wicomico, which arrived here last Thursday with a cargo of oysters, has mysterjously disappeared. He was last seen at the house of Henrietta Cook, on Thirteenth street, late at night. As he had with him some \$500 some apprehension is felt in regard to him. The New England Society celebrated last

night, at Marini's Hall, the landing of the Pilgrims on Plymouth Rock. Speeches were made by Senator Morrill, Representatives Willard and Ela, and others, and the occasion was a most pleasant one to all who participated. Mr. Evan Hughes, a well know merchant tailor, died this morning at his residence, on F street, near 13th, from the effects of a fall on the 13th inst.

A number of the German citizens of the Dis trict met last night and appointed a committee to wait upon the police commisioners and ask the reconsideration of the action of the board. by which a number of applications for licenses to sell liquor have been refused.

Another dividend will be paid the depositors of the First National Bank of this city on the 1st of January next. It is expected that it will be fifteen per cent. Thirty per cent has already been paid.

The gas lamps on K street, extending over a mile on each side of the street were lighted simultaneously last night by electricity. The result gave much satisfaction, and an effort will be made to make the system permanent and

extend it to the entire city. The commissioner of patents has raised thunler among his clerks by refusing the time honored Christmas gift to each clerk in the office of a pretty knife or gold pen, on the frivolous pretext that he has discovered that Christmas gifts are not provided for in the appropriations, and hence it would not be honest to spend public money for such purposes. -- Wash. Cor.

NOTICE TO GAS CONSUMERS.

CITY COUNCIL. OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN. At a regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen, held December 23, 1873, there were present: S. H. Janney, esq. President, and Mesers Latham, Moore, Johnson and French.

The Committee on Claims reported in fay rof paying John J. Proctor \$2, as clerk of election, which was agreed to and the bill lordered to be paid. The Committee on the Poor reported in favor

of paying the bills of J. P. Agnew, \$47.50; Thos. Hoy, \$49.40; and Smoot & Perry, \$128.17, for material furnished Alms House,—which were adopted and the bills ordered to be paid.

The following resolution—that the wood re-

cently purchased by the Committee on the Poor for the use of the indigent persons of the cty snall be distributed to such persons through the orders of the Overseers of the Poor of the respective wards was lost.

Bills of J. R. Nicklin, \$2; T. B. Pinn, \$2, and J. W. Nalls, \$3, as judges and clerks of election in the 4th ward; also a communication

from J. P. Coleman asking for a lease of a lot at the Fish Wharf; also a communication from mes Ferguson for abatement of taxes; also bils for well on Pitt street,—were received from the Common Council and their action concur-A resolution instructing the Superintendent

of Police to pave a gutter on Columbus street, near Wolfe; also a resolution in regard to selling property upon which taxes were not paid by first of March next,—were received from the Common Council and not agreed to. A communication from sundry barbers pray-

ing for a law to close their shops on Sunday was

referred to the Committee on General Laws with

in tructions to bring in a bill in accordance with the wishes of the petitioners. The Board than adjourned, Teste: JNO. J. JAMIESON, Clerk

COMMON COUNCIL.

At a regular semi-monthly meeting of the Common Council, held December 23, 1873, there were present: George R. Shinn, esq., President, and Messrs. Reck, Eichberg, Hopkins, Broders, McKenzie, Downham, Risneill, Fowle, Claygett, Lucas, Hughes and Evans.

Mr. McKenzie, from the Committee on Finance, reported the following resolution, which was adopted:
Resolved, That our Senators and Delegates in the General Assembly be requested to use their

efforts to have the tenth section of the charter of this city so amended as to require payment of the city capitation tax before being allowed to vote in charter elections. Mr. McKenzie, from the same committee, reported the following order, which was passed Ordered, That the Collectors of Taxes be, and they are hereby, directed to prepare the lists of taxes on all property on which the taxes are not pa'd by the 1st of March next, and to sell the

next, after advertising the same according to law, and that they be required to so advertise and self every year thereafter.

Mr. Evans offered a resolution, which was adopted, directing the Superintendent of Police to have the gutter upon the east side of Columbus street, north of Wolfe, paved a distance of about twenty five feet to connect the guiter across Wolfe street with that fronting the prop-

same, commencing on the first Tuesday of April

erty of Mr. Jeremish Hays.

A bill of James W. Nads, amounting to \$3;
one of J. R. Nicklin, for \$2, and one of T. B Pinn, for \$2, for election services, -were ordered

to be paid. Mr. Rock presented bills and receipts of Dr. J. B. Johnson for a well on the west side of Pitt street, between Princess and Oronoko, which were referred to the Committee on Streets.
A bill of Thomas Hoy, amounting to \$49.40

one of Smoot & Perry, for \$128 17; one of J. P. Agnew, for \$47 50, and one of Samuel Dishman, or \$75, for material and work for the Poors House, -were received from the Board of Altermen and their action in ordering the same to be paid was concurred in.

A bill of John J. Proctor, amounting to \$1

for election services, reduced by the Committee on Claims to \$2 was received from the Board of Aldermen and their action in adopting the comnittee's report was concurred in. A communication from James Ferguson ask-

ing for reduction of assessment and exemption from taxation of capital employed in manufacturing purposes, was referred to the Committee An act entitled an act for the revision, codiff cation and amendment of the laws of the city of Alexandria was received from the Board of Aldermen, the amendments made by that Board

Ayes, Messrs. Rock, Eichberg, Hopkins, Broders, McKenzie, Downham, Fowle, Risheill, Claggett, Hughes, Lucas, Evans and Mr. Presilent-13 Noes, none.

A communication from James P. Coleman

concurred in, and passed by the following vote:

asking for a five years' lease of the property oc cupied by him at the Fish Whart, was referred to the Committee on Public Property. The resolution directing the Superintendent of Police to paye the gutter on the east side of Columbus street, north of Wolfe, was returned from the Board of Aldermen, with the action of this Board non-concurre t in and referred to the

Committee on Streets, and their action was concurred in. The Board then adjourned.
Teste: HAROLD SNOWDEN, Cl'k.

#### COMMERCIAL. Alexandria Market, December 21, '73.

FLOUR, Superfine...... \$6 50 s 7 (0) Fine..... 5 00 a 5 50 Extra ..... 7 75 8 5 29 Family..... Prime to choice white...... 1 73 a CORN, white...... 0 69 a 0 70 Mixed ...... 0 58 a 0 64 Yellow ..... 0 58 a 0 50 KYE..... ..... 0 30 a 0 33 EGGS 0 31 a 0 31 TURKEYS, dressed 0 15 a 0 15 ONIONS ..... Western ..... Sides... ... 0 Shoulders ..... Washed 0 35 8 0 45 Merino, unwashed 0 25 8 0 28

Wheat is fairly active at an advance; offer ings of 3083 bushels, with sales of white at 170 and 173 for prime, and of red at 130, 145 and 150 for common to fair, 155, 160, 163 and 165 for good, 168, 170 and 173 for prime, and 175 and 175 for choice: Corn is dull at a decline of 2a3c; of erings of 2444 bushels mixed, with sales at 58, 61 and 70. Rye is quiet at 85. Oats are steady offerings of 148 bushels, with sales at 47, 48 and 484. Other articles unchanged.

ALEXANDRIA CATTLE MARKET, Dec. 24 The market for live stock this week has been dull, with limited sales of Cattle at 3 to 5c, sheep 4 to 5c, Hog: 63 to 74c net, and Cows and Calves 20 to \$50 per head, No. 1 Cows and Calves in demand; common and inferior dull and neglected.

GEORGETOWN CATTLE MARKET, Dec. 24 The offerings of Cattle, Sheep and Cows and Calves were very limited to-day, with very tew buyers present at the yards. We quote Cattle at 3 to 5½c, Sheep 4 to 6c, and Cows and Calves 20 to 560 per head. Market dull and drooping

PORT OF ALEXANDRIA, DECEMBER 24 SUN ROSE...... 7 14 | MOON SET ...... 10 16

ARRIVED. Schr McPhee, Petersburg, to Smoot & Perry

MEMORANDA.

Schr E D Endicott, hence, at Providence 21st.